

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please amend the paragraph at page 6, line 11 to page 7, line 7, as follows:

-- Preferred examples of the arylene groups represented by Ar<sup>1</sup> and Ar<sup>2</sup> are those having 6 to 20 carbon atoms. Concrete examples include phenylene, naphthylene and anthrathylene, 1,1'-biphenylene and 1,1'-binaphthylene. These arylene groups may be substituted. Examples of the substituents are halogen atoms, e.g. fluorine atom, chlorine atom and bromine atom; alkyl groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, e.g. methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, s-butyl, t-butyl and cyclohexyl; fluoroalkyl groups having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, e.g. difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, 2,2-difluoroethyl and 1-fluoropropyl; alkoxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, isobutoxy, s-butoxy and t-butoxy; acyl groups having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. acetyl, propionyl, ~~butyl~~ butyryl and ~~isobutyl~~ isobutyryl; acyloxy groups having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. acetyloxy, propionyloxy, ~~butyloxy~~ butyryloxy and ~~isobutyloxy~~ isobutyryloxy; alkoxycarbonyl groups having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, e.g. methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, butoxycarbonyl, isobutoxycarbonyl, s-butoxycarbonyl and t-butoxycarbonyl; and carboxylic acid groups (hydroxycarbonyl groups) and salts thereof. --

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, lines 8-26, as follows:

-- Preferred examples of the alkyl groups which may be represented by R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> are those having 1 to 6 carbon atoms. Concrete examples include methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, s-butyl, t-butyl and cyclohexyl. These alkyl groups may be substituted. Examples of the substituents are halogen atoms, e.g. fluorine atom, chlorine atom and bromine atom; alkoxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, isobutoxy, s-butoxy and t-butoxy; acyl groups having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. acetyl, propionyl, ~~butyl~~ butyryl and ~~isobutyl~~ isobutyryl; acyloxy

groups having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. acetyloxy, propionyloxy, ~~butylyloxy~~ butyryloxy and ~~isobutylyloxy~~ isobutyryloxy; alkoxycarbonyl groups having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, e.g. methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, butoxycarbonyl, isobutoxycarbonyl, s-butoxycarbonyl and t-butoxycarbonyl; carboxylic acid groups and salts thereof; and sulfonic acid groups and salts thereof. --

Please amend the paragraph at page 7, last line to page 8, line 22, as follows:

-- Preferred examples of the aryl groups which may be represented by R<sup>1</sup> or R<sup>2</sup> are those having 6 to 14 carbon atoms. Concrete examples are phenyl, naphthyl and anthryl. These aryl groups may be substituted. Examples of the substituents are halogen atoms, e.g. fluorine atom, chlorine atom and bromine atom; alkyl groups having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, e.g. methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, s-butyl, t-butyl and cyclohexyl; fluoroalkyl groups having 1 to 3 carbon atoms, e.g. difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, 2,2-difluoroethyl and 1-fluoropropyl; alkoxy groups having 1 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, isobutoxy, s-butoxy and t-butoxy; acyl groups having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. acetyl, propionyl, ~~butyl~~ butyryl and ~~isobutyl~~ isobutyryl; acyloxy groups having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, e.g. acetyloxy, propionyloxy, ~~butylyloxy~~ butyryloxy and ~~isobutylyloxy~~ isobutyryloxy; alkoxycarbonyl groups having 2 to 5 carbon atoms, e.g. methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, butoxycarbonyl, isobutoxycarbonyl, s-butoxycarbonyl and t-butoxycarbonyl; carboxylic acid groups and salts thereof; and sulfonic acid groups and salts thereof. --

Please amend the paragraph starting at the bottom of page 12 to page 13, line 11, as follows:

-- In the above formulas, R<sup>a</sup> and R<sup>b</sup> each represents a substituent on the benzene ring, such as a halogen atom, e.g. fluorine, chlorine and bromine; an alkyl group e.g. methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, s-butyl, t-butyl and cyclohexyl; a fluoroalkyl group, e.g.

difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, 2,2-difluoroethyl and 1-fluoropropyl; an alkoxy group, e.g. methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, isobutoxy, s-butoxy and t-butoxy; an acyl group, e.g. acetyl, propionyl, ~~butyl~~ butyryl and ~~isobutyl~~ isobutyryl; an acyloxy group, e.g. acetyloxy, propionyloxy, ~~butyloxy~~ butyryloxy and ~~isobutyloxy~~ isobutyryloxy; an alkoxycarbonyl group, e.g. methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, butoxycarbonyl, isobutoxycarbonyl, s-butoxycarbonyl and t-butoxycarbonyl; or a carboxylic acid group; Hal represents chlorine atom or bromine atom; and Tos-Cl represents p-tolylsulfonyl chloride. --

Please amend the paragraph starting at the bottom of page 16 to page 17, line 16, as follows:

-- In the above formulas, R<sup>c</sup> and R<sup>d</sup> each represents a substituent on the benzene ring, such as a halogen atom, e.g. fluorine, chlorine and bromine; an alkyl group e.g. methyl, ethyl, propyl, isopropyl, butyl, isobutyl, s-butyl, t-butyl and cyclohexyl; a fluoroalkyl group, e.g. difluoromethyl, trifluoromethyl, 1,1-difluoroethyl, 2,2-difluoroethyl and 1-fluoropropyl; an alkoxy group, e.g. methoxy, ethoxy, propoxy, isopropoxy, butoxy, isobutoxy, s-butoxy and t-butoxy; an acyl group, e.g. acetyl, propionyl, ~~butyl~~ butyryl and ~~isobutyl~~ isobutyryl; an acyloxy group, e.g. acetyloxy, propionyloxy, ~~butyloxy~~ butyryloxy and ~~isobutyloxy~~ isobutyryloxy; an alkoxycarbonyl group, e.g. methoxycarbonyl, ethoxycarbonyl, propoxycarbonyl, isopropoxycarbonyl, butoxycarbonyl, isobutoxycarbonyl, s-butoxycarbonyl and t-butoxycarbonyl; or a carboxylic acid group; NBS represents N-bromosuccinimide, Hal represents chlorine or bromine atom; and Tos-Cl represents p-tolylsulfonyl chloride.--

Please amend the paragraph starting at the bottom of page 29 to page 30, line 11, as follows:

-- A 3-liter three-necked flask equipped with a thermometer and a mechanical stirrer was charged with 300 g (1.97 moles) of ~~o-vaniline~~ o-vanillin, 100 g of palladium-carbon

supporting 5% by weight of palladium, 2 liters of ethyl acetate and 500 ml of acetic acid. The contents were stirred under a hydrogen atmosphere and at room temperature, for 84 hours. The reaction mixture thus obtained was filtered and the filtrate was condensed. To the condensate, 2 liters of ethyl acetate was added again, and the mixture was washed with 1 liter of water three times. The obtained organic layer was condensed and cooled, to yield 259 g of colorless crystal of 2-hydroxy-3-methoxytoluene having the following properties. The yield was 95% based on the ~~o-vaniline~~ o-vanillin.

<sup>1</sup>H-NMR (270 MHz, deuterated benzene, TMS, ppm)  $\delta$  : 2.28 (s, 3H, Ar-CH<sub>3</sub>), 3.19 (s, 3H, Ar-O-CH<sub>3</sub>), 5.78(s, 1H, Ar-OH), 6.38 (d, 1H), 6.63-6.80 (m, 2H). --